

THE INDEPENDENT

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HELENA, MONT., NOV. 3, 1889.

THE SPIRIT OF KNOWINGTHINGS

It is an indelible disgrace that election should be at the mercy and in the hands of men who pleased to the world that they cannot read nor write or speak the English language, who were paid as for ordinary labor to carry up a card to the election judges saying on it that they wanted to vote the straight democratic ticket. These men by their own confession could not read the words addressed to the judges of election by others in their name. A greater perversion of a free ballot, a greater outrage on the intelligence of our people, a greater danger to free institutions we are not able to conceive of. That men should fight against such outrages upon the elective franchise is, to our notion, a credit, and tame submission would be the greater disgrace.—Herald.

It is about time you stopped that nonsense. Your own party right here in Helena sent hundreds of illiterate men to the polls with cards bearing the legend "I want to vote for all the candidates on this card." And they voted, too, as they had a right to do. If the Herald thinks it an outrage that such men should vote let it advocate an educational basis for suffrage. Probably Senator Hedges would introduce a bill in the legislature this winter providing for the disfranchisement of all citizens who could not read and write. But as long as illiteracy is not made a disqualification the Herald's talk about not tamely submitting to the law of the land is rank and revolutionary. The San Francisco Chronicle, a republican journal, has discovered another newspaper of the Herald sort and thus demolishes its argument.

An interior journal has discovered a new argument in favor of the Australian ballot system. Referring to the trial of the system at the recent election in Montana, it says that as a result many ballots were so disfigured by those who could neither read nor write that they could not be deciphered, and were thrown out, and the journal referred to says: "If this is all that is the matter with the Australian system let us have it by all means in every state."

Obviously the meaning of this is that there should be an educational qualification for voters in every state, but the journal in question neglects to see that until such a qualification shall be established by law, illiteracy cannot be held to disqualify a voter and that the most learned pundit in the land has no more right to vote than the citizen who has never received any education and to whom reading and writing are as a sealed book. Surely the newspaper referred to would not consent that the franchise should be regulated by a test of this kind in the absence of any law on the subject, for that would be extremely dangerous to the liberties and right of action of the people.

Up to the present time no statesman of either political party has advocated the disfranchisement of the illiterate, and least of all by a trick such as that would be. Whenever the time comes for the adoption of an educational qualification then it will be adopted; but with it must come a change in the basis of representation in the southern states, where illiteracy most prevails; but until that time no one has any shadow of right to say that a citizen shall not vote because he cannot read the names on his ticket; and the adoption of any system which would bring about such a result without the intervention of law would be an act of manifest injustice and a trick unworthy a free and intelligent people.

We commend these words to the careful consideration of our contemporary.

THE SILVER CONVENTION.

Is Montana awake to the importance of the National Silver Convention which is to meet in St. Louis on Nov. 25? Other silver-producing states are making preparations for representation there on a scale worthy of the cause. Montana will send a delegation that will creditably represent her in the deliberations of the convention, but, in addition to that, our people should make a demonstration that will show to the world that we are in earnest in asking recognition for our great interest. At least 200 of our representative men ought to go to St. Louis in a body to join with citizens of other states in the deliberations that may be of such vast importance to our future. Advice from that city say that the arrangements for the convention have been closed. The promoters of the movement in St. Louis have shown a great deal of earnestness in the work, and the business people of the city show they appreciate the importance of the convention by the manner in which they have subscribed to the fund for the entertainment of the delegates and visitors. The indications are that the convention will attract an attendance of upwards of 20,000 people, coming from all parts of the United States. From the mining country there will be several special cars and displays of minerals from leading camps. The grand music hall, which has been secured for the convention, for Nov. 25, 27, 28 and 29, is one of the largest and best arranged halls in the country. It has an adequate seating capacity for both delegates and spectators, while at the same time the former are placed compactly and advantageously. The entertainment being arranged by St. Louis will include a grand Thanksgiving dinner. This will be of an elaborate description, and a decided novelty. It will probably be held in the Merchants Ex-

change, which has the largest floor area of any hall of its character in the country. There will be entertainments during the other four days of the session of the convention, and St. Louis will make every effort to surpass herself in caring for her guests. The delegate representation will be large from all the states and territories in the union. The governors of the states and territories, to whom is delegated the authority of appointing delegates, have shown a great deal of care in selecting the best possible men for the positions. The same care will be taken by the executive committee in its selection of 100 delegates at large from the United States. The attendance of members and ex-members of congress will also be large. From present indications the convention will result in a great deal of good in educating the people of the country, particularly of the agricultural districts, up to the importance of the silver question.

THAT WATER CONTRACT.

The city council was right in deciding not to enter into any contract with the consolidated water companies for more than five years. It should not listen to any proposition to extend the time to ten years. If the companies do not choose to accept the contract on the terms laid down the whole question should be left open until the city can get what it wants. The city and not the water corporations should dictate in this all important matter. Several of the gentlemen interested in the water combination have signified their willingness to take a five year contract. If Mr. Woolston has represented to the Boston capitalists that a ten-year contract could be secured, that is his mistake; and if the gentlemen in Boston do not want to engage in the enterprise for a shorter term, they can drop out. We shall continue to get water even if they do not speculate in our necessities.

Gentlemen of the city council, there must be a fair deal. The proposed contract must be made public and fully and freely discussed before it is voted upon by you. The five year limit should not be changed. You should reserve to yourselves the right to say by future ordinance how far the use of meters should be authorized and not put this matter out of your hands by contract. You should insist that the clause in the agreement providing for immediate forfeiture of the contract whenever the quality of the water becomes inferior or the volume inadequate, be absolutely iron clad in the city's interest.

We assume, of course, that the consolidated companies intend to deal fairly and honorably with the city in this matter, and we do not intend to reflect on their good faith; nor do we blame them if they seek to strike the best possible bargain for themselves. But the city, on its own part, must be equally alert, vigilant and business-like. It is now in a position to say what it wants and to get it. There can be no excuse for surrendering our present advantage.

The desire of the water company, as we are told, is for a ten year contract, so modified that, at the end of five years, the city may have the option of purchasing the works.—Herald.

That's too watery, so to speak. The city can condemn and take the works anyhow, at any time, whether the contract says it may have an option or not. Perhaps the city will not want to purchase the works in five years, but perhaps it will want to make a contract with other parties for a better supply and get rid of the old contract. Five years is long enough for the city to bind itself to the Woolston combination. If the company does what it promises, and gives the city a copious supply of pure wholesome water, it will have no difficulty in securing a renewal of its contract at the end of five years. But let's keep a check-rein on it.

The city fathers should take care that both the water and their own actions are kept pure.

This very complete, accurate and interesting report of the court proceedings in the important election contest in Butte were made by Mr. C. B. Nolan of this city. They were models of good reporting.

CROSS-CUTS.

By utilizing the gases which once escaped from furnaces Great Britain is said to save 4,000,000 tons yearly.

Barber (a new hand)—Have you got a mug, sir? McTurk—I have, sir, and I want it shaved, don't you?—Texas Sittings.

"Join, bring me a glass of hot punch." Servant (bringing it): I think this is not quite hot enough, sir. "How do you know that? You must have tasted it." "Indeed, no, sir, I would not do such a thing; I tried it with my finger."—Fliegende Blätter.

The modern land of Babel is Austria-Hungary. Everyone there wants to speak a different language from everybody else. A new telephone line has just been opened between Buda-Pesth and Prague, and the employees could not agree on what language to use to each other. Some wanted to speak German, some Polish, yet others Magyar or Czech. At last the difficulty has been got over by an ordinance that French shall be used.

Perhaps you are looking for a land flowing with milk and honey? If so, you should know that only one person in thirteen can drink milk in any quantity without becoming bilious, and that only one in eleven can eat honey without having a touch of the colic. Just better stay right here in this land and get a blue-handled snow-shove ready for winter.—Detroit Free Press.

Who is responsible for the misuse of the word "whiskers" in America? The word is to-day almost universally used instead of beard. Whiskers, correctly speaking, are only that portion of a man's facial hair which is worn on either side of his face, while the rest is shaven clean. A man with full beard cannot be said to wear whiskers.

As the very name indicates, the appendages are fragments of a beard.—Chicago Herald.

"Is there anybody from Vermont in the car?" asked the conductor, opening the door and letting in forty-two rods of western blizzard.

"I be," responded a tall, lank individual, rising up in a seat next to the stove. "Well, if you'll be kind enough to come forward into the Pullman car," replied the conductor, "there's a lady there who has got her spruce gum mixed up with a paper of resin, and she wants an expert to separate 'em."—Burlington Free Press.

Here's a dainty trick for the adoption of Helena ladies giving afternoon teas this winter. New York has borrowed it from the Chinese. In a hollow ball of gold or silver, divided in the middle and hinged, of the size of a walnut, place tea leaves. Hang the ball, which may of gold or silver wire gauze, by a slender little chain attached to a finger ring. Let the ball hang in a cup of hot water, moving the ball until the water receives the proper strength.

Many men of high rank in Europe are engaged in trade. Prince Bismarck is an enthusiastic timber merchant and paper manufacturer. His paper mills are an active partner in a London bank. The new king of Portugal owns and runs the faience factory of Caldas-Reinha. The royal manufactory of porcelain at Dresden furnishes a considerable portion of King Albert's private income, while the horse-breeding establishment of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin places him in the foremost rank of horse dealers in Europe.

When Charles Dudley Warner was the editor of the Hartford (Conn.) Press, back in the '60s" arousing the patriotism of the state with his vigorous appeals, says the Book-Buyer, one of the type-setters came in from the composing room, and, planting himself before the editor, said: "Well, Mr. Warner, I have decided to enlist in the army."

With mingled sensations of pride and responsibility Mr. Warner replied encouragingly that he was glad to see the man felt the call of duty.

"Oh, it isn't that," said the truthful compositor, "but I'd rather be shot than try to read any more of your copy."

CURRENT LITERATURE.

SCHNEIDER'S MAGAZINE for November is fully up to the usual standard of excellence. The article which will be read with the most interest, perhaps, is from the pen of Col. H. G. Prout, under the title of "Where Emin Is." It is fully illustrated and shows a thorough acquaintance with the geography and people of equatorial Africa. Other articles are, "The Effect on American Commerce of an Anglo-Continental War," by J. Russell Soley; "A Student of Salamanca," by Wm. Henry Bishop, and "Electricity in Relation to the Human Body," by Dr. Allen M. Starr. Harold Frederic's serial, "In the Valley," is continued, while Richard F. Burton and Mrs. Jas. T. Fields contribute some choice verses.

The Forum for November opens with a paper by Prof. J. B. Angell on 'American Rights in Behring Sea,' being an historical explanation of the claim of the United States of jurisdiction over those waters. "Public Opinion and the Civil Service" is the title of an article by E. L. Godkin, editor of the New York Post, being a plea for a strict enforcement of the law. Thos. G. Sherman also contributes an interesting paper, showing the concentration of wealth in the United States. The other contributors are men of national reputation.

THE COSMOPOLITAN for November is brimful of good things. The illustrations in the current number are particularly noticeable. "The Military Conditions of France in 1889," by Count Paul Vassil, deserves particular mention in this regard. "The Stables of the Queen" will be read with interest not only by those who love horses, but by all who like to know about the home life of royalty. "The Dark Horse," a novel completed in this issue, is a well written story of the love making of a newspaper correspondent, who meets his fate while spending a month in a country house. The characters are all true to life, and the tale holds the reader's attention to the end. There are many other good things in the Cosmopolitan this month, indicating the publishers' determination to keep it in the front rank of American magazines.

MANUEL OF ASSAYING, by Walter Leeson Brown, B. Sc., has reached its third edition. It has been revised and corrected, and now makes a volume of 488 pages, containing ninety-four illustrations. The manual is devoted to the assaying of gold, silver, copper and lead ores, and every step in the process is clearly defined from the crushing of the rough ore to the weighing of the final particle of gold obtained. The book is a practical one and as such will be of value to every one interested in mining or assaying. E. H. Sargent & Co., 125 State street, Chicago, are the publishers and the price, \$2.50, is not high considering the merit of the work.

Ladies should call at Fred Gamers' and get a pair of slippers, as he is selling them at a very low figure.

Don Davenport Coal company; office removed to Gates' building, corner Warren and Sixth avenues. Coal exclusively.

The Crystal Restaurant makes a specialty of good bread, butter and coffee.

Have you been to the Crystal Restaurant, Grand street, back of First National bank?

The European Restaurant and Oyster House, 22 Jackson St., below opera house, will serve its first dinner at 4 p. m. to-morrow. It will be a good one.

Notice Nathan's special sale for to-morrow.

Wooden furniture for children cheap at The Bee Hive.

Ribbons at your own price to close out at The Bee Hive.

One hundred dozen ladies' collars with cape only each this week at Fowles' Cash Store, regular price 15 and 20 cents.

Children's plush and cashmere cloaks very cheap at Fowles' Cash Store.

Buy your fine chinaware at The Bee Hive.

The European Restaurant and Oyster House, 22 Jackson St., below opera house, will serve its first dinner at 4 p. m. to-morrow. It will be a good one.

It is an undisputed fact that you can find the largest stock and lowest prices in millinery at Fowles' Cash Store.

Notice Nathan's special sale for to-morrow.

"THE SUICIDE."

A Beautiful Picture on Exhibition at August Pack's.

Michaelowsky's celebrated picture which has been on exhibition at August Pack's wine house on Main street for the past week has attracted thousands, who have gone to see the wonderful skill of an artist who has the power to portray a drama so skillfully. While the painting is not free from criticism, its merits are so great that they are readily seen by the most obtuse. To tell a story, hideous as that of Beatrice Cenci, in so modest a manner shows that the artist has a conception of a subject that is truly marvelous. To many, no doubt the picture of a nude female is suggestive, but the wanton is not the leading character of the tragedy depicted upon canvas. It is the figure of the man whose features seem to writhe in agony as he stands at the window, the curtain pushed partly aside, the morning sun peering through the window. It is a tale of horror well told.

In attention to detail Michaelowsky has no superior. The lamp upon the table, the plush chair upon which the garments of each lie, the hat and cane, the skirt upon the floor, the slipper at one end of the room, cover carelessly thrown over the foot of the bed, the disposition of the sheet, the dainty surroundings of the room, so nicely drawn and shaded that one can not be satisfied by one study of the painting. It is a rare work of art and was only refused a place in the Paris academy because the story was so well known that even the immortals did not dare to give it such prominence.

THE MARKETS.

STOCKS.
 New York, Nov. 2.—Bar silver 94½.
 Copper—Dull, lake Nov., \$11.
 Lead—Dull; domestic, \$3.80.
 Stocks were fairly active to-day, with trusts less prominent in trading, though with the exception of Missouri Pacific there was real activity in the railroad list. The market closed active and weak generally at fractional losses from opening prices. Final changes are fairly well divided between gains and losses and are for small fractions in most cases, the only important ones being losses of 1½ in Missouri Pacific and 1½ in Chicago gas. Governments dull.

Petroleum opened strong at 10½; highest, 10½; lowest, 10½.
 Government bonds, 4s, 127½; 4½s, 105½; Northern Pacific, 31½; preferred, 72½; Oregon Improvement, 55; Oregon Navigation, 100; Transcontinental, 83½; Union Pacific, 67½.

CHICAGO PRODUCE.
 Chicago, Nov. 2, 1:15 p. m.—Close—Wheat—steady; Nov., 78½; Dec., 79½.
 Corn—Lower; Nov., 32½; Dec., 31½; May, 33½.
 Oats—Steady; Nov., 18½; Dec., 19½; May, 22.
 Pork—Steady; Nov., \$9.25; Jan., \$9.17½; \$9.20.
 Lard—Steady; Nov., \$5.45; Jan., \$5.55.

CHICAGO CATTLE.
 Chicago, Nov. 2.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,000; dull; choice to extra heavy, \$4.40; \$4.50; stockers, \$2.75; \$4.30; feeders, \$2.00; \$2.75; Texas, cattle, \$2.40; \$2.75; western ranges, \$2.40; \$2.50.
 Hogs—Receipts, 12,000; steady to shade higher; closing weak; mixed, \$3.80; \$4.00; heavy, \$3.70; \$4.00; light, \$3.60; \$4.00.
 Sheep—Receipts, 2,000; steady; natives, \$3.00; \$4.00; westerns, \$3.50; \$4.25; Texas, \$3.50; \$4.00.

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